



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: M

Date: December 12, 2023

Title: First Review of the Virginia Literacy Act Division Literacy Plan Template

Presenter: Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Purpose of Presentation

Action required by state law.

Executive Summary

The Virginia Literacy Act (VLA), passed by the Virginia Legislature in 2022 and expanded in 2023, focuses on improving literacy outcomes for all students in the Commonwealth. The Code of Virginia and VLA require, in part, that “each local school board shall adopt a comprehensive, unified, long-range plan The division wide comprehensive plan shall also include a divisionwide literacy plan for pre-kindergarten through grade eight. The Board shall issue guidance on the contents of such plans. The Department shall develop a template for such plans. Each divisionwide literacy plan shall follow such template and address how the local school board will align (i) literacy professional development, (ii) core reading and literacy curriculum, and (iii) screening, supplemental instruction, and interventions with evidence-based literacy instruction practices aligned with science-based reading research and how the school board will support parents to support the literacy development of their children. When developing such divisionwide literacy plan, each local school board shall use programs from the lists developed by the Department pursuant to subsection C of § [22.1-253.13:5](#) and subdivision H 2 of § [22.1-253.13:1](#) or seek approval from the Department for the use of alternative programs that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction and align with science-based reading research.”

Action Requested

First review. Action will be requested at the January 25, 2024 meeting of the Board.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive for

first review the content of the division literacy plan to comply with the VLA.

Previous Review or Action

None.

Background Information and Statutory Authority

Subsection B of § [22.1-253.13:6](#) states, in part, that “[t]he divisionwide comprehensive plan shall also include a divisionwide literacy plan for pre-kindergarten through grade eight. The Board shall issue guidance on the contents of such plans. The Department shall develop a template for such plans. Each divisionwide literacy plan shall follow such template and address how the local school board will align (i) literacy professional development, (ii) core reading and literacy curriculum, and (iii) screening, supplemental instruction, and interventions with evidence-based literacy instruction practices aligned with science-based reading research and how the school board will support parents to support the literacy development of their children. When developing such divisionwide literacy plan, each local school board shall use programs from the lists developed by the Department pursuant to subsection C of § [22.1-253.13:5](#) and subdivision H 2 of § [22.1-253.13:1](#) or seek approval from the Department for the use of alternative programs that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction and align with science-based reading research. Each such divisionwide literacy plan shall be submitted to the Department and shall identify which core literacy curricula, supplemental instructional practices and programs, and intervention programs from the list developed by the Department pursuant to subdivision H 2 of § [22.1-253.13:1](#) or alternative programs approved by the Department that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction and align with science-based reading research will be used in each grade level, kindergarten through 12, at each of the schools within such school division. Each local school board shall post, maintain, and update as necessary on such school board's website a copy of its divisionwide literacy plan and the job description and contact information for any reading specialist employed by such school division pursuant to subsection G of § [22.1-253.13:2](#) and for any dyslexia specialist employed by such school division. The Department shall post each divisionwide literacy plan on its website.”

Stakeholder Engagement

After first review, VDOE staff will post material on the VDOE website for inspection by the public. Public comment will go to vla@doe.virginia.gov. Additionally, the Department will seek feedback from Superintendents and other Division Level Academic Leadership through focus groups in partnership with the Virginia Association of School Superintendents and to division level English & literacy supervisors for their feedback and public comment. Feedback from stakeholder engagement will be shared with the Board at final review.

Implementation and Communication

Final review of the division literacy plan template will take place on January 25, 2024. Upon approval by the Board, the Board's instructions on the content of the divisionwide literacy plans and template will be shared with school divisions.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources

None.